LOK SABHA

Thursday, January 29, 2004/Magha 9, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

(*The National Anthem was played.*)

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...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Sir, the House was convened without the President's Address. ...(*Interruptions*)

श्री राशिद अलवी (अमरोहा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश में जो डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स खत्म किये गये हैं, उनको बहाल किया जाये। â€¦ (व्यवधान) प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी इसके बारे में बोला था। â€¦ (व्यवधान)

11.02 hrs

OBITUARY REFERENCES

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Title: References made to the passing away of Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura (Member of 13th Lok Sabha and 5th Lok Sabha) on 3 January, 2004; Shri Kushabhau Thakre (Member of 6th Lok Sabha) on 28 December, 2003 and Shri K. R. Ganesh (Member 4th and 5th Lok Sabha) on 2 January, 2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of our colleague Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura and also two of our former colleagues, namely, Shri Kushabhau Thakre and Shri K.R. Ganesh.

Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura was a sitting Member of the Lok Sabha representing the Bhatinda Parliamentary Constituency of Punjab. Earlier, Shri Bhaura was also a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977 representing the same Parliamentary Constituency.

Shri Bhaura was also a member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly for two terms from 1962 to 1968.

Shri Bhaura was a devoted parliamentarian. He served as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests from 1999 to 2000; and the Committee on Agriculture in 2003. He was also a member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Communications from the year 2000 till his death.

Shri Bhaura actively participated in student's movement before formally joining politics. He was a votary of the rights of the under-privileged, the downtrodden and the landless. An eminent Trade Union leader, he held the post of the President, All India Youth Federation, Punjab Unit; and Punjab Khet Mazdoor Sabha. He also served as Secretary, All India Students' Federation, Punjab Unit; and Vice-President, Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union Federation.

He was also a member of the Senate of Punjab University and the Governing Body of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.

A gentle and amiable person, Shri Bhaura was a man with a literary bent of mind. He had to his credit a collection of poems entitled "*Pairon Boldiyan*" which was published in 1992.

Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura passed away on 3rd January, 2004 at New Delhi at the age of 70. In his demise, we have lost a popular leader.

Shri Kushabhau Thakre was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1979, representing the Khandwa Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

Born on 15th August, 1922 at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh, Shri Thakre aspired to become a doctor. Destiny, however, led him to public life.

Shri Thakre was a dedicated social worker from his early years. He devoted his entire life for public service. A simple man, he led a spartan life. With his dedication, sincerity and affable nature, he endeared himself to one and all.

A true *Karmayogi,* Shri Thakre commanded tremendous respect and affection of the people of our country.

Shri Thakre was revered for his organisational skills and his commitment to traverse his chosen path of principles and values in serving the country.

Shri Thakre, during his distinguished public life, by dint of his hard work and long experience, developed a keen sense of political acumen; and blossomed as a political leader who, while maintaining a low profile, left an indelible imprint of his work and personality on contemporary politics and our times. He was a source of inspiration for the new generation. His passion for moral values and discipline would continue to inspire the countrymen.

Shri Kushabhau Thakre passed away on 28th December, 2003 at New Delhi at the age of 81.

Shri K.R. Ganesh was a member of the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1967 to 1977, representing the Andaman and Nicobar Parliamentary Constituency of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Shri Ganesh was a freedom fighter. He participated in the 'Quit India Movement' of 1942 and suffered imprisonment.

He was also a well-known trade union worker and a journalist.

An able administrator, he also served as the Union Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance from 26th june, 1970 to 2nd May, 1971 and, thereafter, as the Minister of State in the same Ministry from 2nd May, 1971 to 10th October, 1974, and in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals from 10th October, 1974 to 1st December, 1975.

Earlier, he was Senior Vice-Chairman of Port Blair Municipal Board from 1961 to 1966, and a member of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee for the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He served as a member of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society and was also its General Secretary. He was also a member of the Indian Delegation to the Twenty-Third Session of the United Nations' General Assembly held in December, 1969. Later, he served as Chairman, Central Warehousing Corporation from 1981 to 1990.

Shri K.R. Ganesh passed away on 2nd January, 2004 at Gurgaon, Haryana, at the age of 82.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon. Members, the House also notes with grief that thousands of lives were lost and immense damage was caused to property by the earthquake which hit Bam on 26th December, 2003. The House offers its heartfelt condolences to the people of Iran on this tragedy. The House notes that the Government of India has committed 10 million US Dollars towards relief assistance to the victims of the earthquake. Government of India was quick to send a team of doctors which set up a field hospital at Bam complete with medicines, equipment and surgical facilities. Other relief material such as blankets and high protein biscuits were also sent for the disaster relief.

We deeply mourn the loss of lives and the House may place on record its deep sense of grief over this tragedy.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

11.09 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 1200 noon.

11.10 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock

on Friday, January 30, 2004/Magha 10, 1925 (Saka).